

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2025 6:00:00 AM

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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to your grasslands plan for the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. The Comanche National Grassland is experiencing an ecological crisis.

Hunting groups and coordinated mass shooting events are killing thousands of prairie dogs, apparently for pleasure. The hunters use lead ammunition. The slaughtered prairie dogs contain lead, so that when scavengers consume the prairie dogs, the scavengers become poisoned by lead. Some of these scavengers then are consumed by other animals, who then became poisoned by lead.

We've compiled a detailed case study with screenshots and documentation that highlight the severity of this issue here: <https://grasslandscolorado.org/sport-shooting-or-colony-collapse/>

There are currently no regulations in Colorado that limit prairie dog killing on public lands[mdash]state or federal.

We respectfully urge you to implement meaningful regulations to protect prairie dogs, which are keystone species and serve essential roles in maintaining grassland ecosystems. This unregulated hunting is unethical and ecologically ruinous.

Sincerely,

Melinda Marquis, Ph.D.